

Notice of Allowability**Application No.**

09/390,026

Examiner

Yogesh C. Garg

Applicant(s)

PEYSER ET AL.

Art Unit

3625

- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 8/18/09 & Telephone Interview on 9/8/09.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 39-60.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
Identifying Indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

/Yogesh C Garg/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3625

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 8/18/09 has been entered.

Independent claims 39, 54 and 58 are currently amended. Claims 1-38 were previously canceled. Claims 39-60 are pending. Claims 40-44, 47-53, 56-57, and 59 are previously withdrawn claims. Since in view of the following Examiner's Amendment the independent claims 39, 54 and 58 are found allowable all withdrawn claims being dependent of these independent claims are reinstated and allowed also.

2. Drawings filed 9/3/1999 are accepted and approved.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with attorney Mr. Chris Adams on 9/8/09.

The application has been amended as follows:

1-38. (Previously Canceled)

39. (Currently Amended) A system for purchasing several types of telecommunication services available from a plurality of sellers, the system comprising:

a server in communication with a buyer terminal and a plurality of seller terminals,

wherein the server performs a method stored in a storage medium and executed by one or more processors comprising:

enabling a buyer to create one or more requests for proposal for the several types of telecommunications services available from the plurality of sellers;

presenting the several types of telecommunication services available from the plurality of sellers to the buyer terminal;

enabling the buyer to select at least one type of telecommunication service from the several types of telecommunication services;

receiving one or more requests for purchasing at least one type of telecommunication service selected from the several types of telecommunication services at a the server, the one or more requests being associated with a the buyer;

receiving information from the buyer during the purchase of at least one type of telecommunication service regarding prior ~~use~~ usage of the selected at least one type of telecommunication services of the buyer associated with a previous seller of telecommunication service;

receiving a plurality of questions from the buyer during the purchase of at least one type of telecommunication service, the questions being associated with the selected at least one type of telecommunication services;

verifying the identity of the buyer from a plurality of data sources;

generating an offer to provide the selected at least one type of telecommunication service to the buyer in response to receiving the one or more requests and receiving the information, the offer being associated with a provider of telecommunication services; ~~and~~

receiving a response to the offer, wherein the response is associated with the buyer, and wherein the response may be an acceptance of the offer or a rejection of the offer; and

notifying the provider of the response and an identity of the buyer.

40. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ system according to claim 39, wherein the generating an offer comprises:

generating a plurality of offers, each offer being associated with a different telecommunication service provider.

41. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ system according to claim 39, wherein the receiving a request, receiving information, generating an offer, receiving a response, and notifying the provider occur sequentially.

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42. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ system according to claim 39, wherein receiving the response further comprises:

receiving user input from the buyer selecting one of the plurality of offers to provide the at least one telecommunication service as the response.

43. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ system according to claim 39, wherein the request is one or more requests for a plurality of types of telecommunication services.

44. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ system according to claim 39, wherein the request is a request for proposal from a plurality of telecommunication service providers.

45. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 39, further comprising:

querying the buyer regarding prior usage of telecommunication services.

46. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 45, further comprising:

estimating at least a portion of the information based on answers received from the query to the buyer.

47. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ system according to claim 39, further comprising:

qualifying the buyer to make the request based on identifiers associated with the buyer.

48. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ system according to claim 47 wherein qualifying comprises:

comparing the identifiers against information from a commercial database in order to confirm an identity of the buyer.

49. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ system according to claim 48 further comprising:

registering the buyer in order to be able to make the request.

50. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ system according to claim 49, wherein the registering includes providing buyer contact information.

51. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ system according to claim 47, wherein the qualifying is performed based on rules.

52. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ system according to claim 39, wherein the request specifies dates, wherein the dates include a response due date, a service duration date, and a start of service date.

53. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ system according to claim 39, further comprising:

forming a contract based on the response between the provider and the buyer.

54. (Currently Amended) A telecommunication service manager, comprising:

a server in communication with a buyer terminal and a plurality of seller terminals,

wherein the server performs a method stored in a storage medium and executed by one or more processors comprising:

enabling a buyer to create one or more requests for proposal for the several types of telecommunications services available from the plurality of sellers;

presenting the several types of telecommunication services available from the plurality of sellers to the buyer terminal;

enabling the buyer to select at least one type of telecommunication service from the several types of telecommunication services;

receiving one or more requests associated with a the buyer for purchasing at least one type of telecommunication service selected from several types of telecommunication services;

receiving information from the buyer during the purchase of at least one type of telecommunication service regarding prior use usage of the selected at least one type of telecommunication services of the buyer associated with a previous seller of telecommunication service;

receiving a plurality of questions from the buyer during the purchase of at least one type of telecommunication service, the questions being associated with the selected at least one type of telecommunication services;

verifying the identity of the buyer from a plurality of data sources;

generating an offer associated with a provider of telecommunication services to provide the selected at least one type of telecommunication service to

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the buyer in response to receiving the one or more requests and receiving the information;

receiving a response to the offer the response associated with the buyer, wherein the response may be an acceptance of the offer or a rejection of the offer; and

notifying the provider of the response and an identity of the buyer.

55. (Previously Presented) The telecommunication service manager according to claim 54, further comprising:

a database in communication with the server configured to facilitate a purchase of telecommunication services by the buyer from the provider based on the request and the response, wherein the database stores a request for proposal data from the buyer, buyer data, qualification data, and seller data, and wherein the request for proposal data, buyer data, qualification data and seller data are processed by the server to generate the offer.

56. (Previously Presented) The telecommunication service manager of claim 54, wherein the offer is a plurality of offers from the plurality of telecommunication service providers received from the plurality of seller terminals.

57. (Previously Presented) The telecommunication service manager of claim 54, wherein the response is a collaboration of a plurality of responses from the plurality of telecommunication service.

58. (Currently Amended) A telecommunication service manager, comprising:

a processor for executing a set of instructions;

a memory for storing the set of instructions, wherein the set of instructions enables a buyer to create one or more requests for proposal for the several types of telecommunications services available from a plurality of sellers, presents the several types of telecommunication services available from the plurality of sellers to the buyer terminal, enable the buyer to select at least one type of telecommunication service from the several types of telecommunication services, receives one or more requests associated with a the buyer for purchasing at least one type of telecommunication service selected from several types of telecommunication services at a server, receives information from the buyer during the purchase of at least one type of telecommunication service regarding prior ~~use~~ usage of the selected at least one type of telecommunication services of the buyer associated with a previous seller of telecommunication service, [[,]]receives a plurality of questions from the buyer during the purchase of at least one type of telecommunication service, the questions being associated with the selected at least one type of telecommunication services, verifies the identity of the buyer from a plurality of data sources, generates an offer associated with a provider of telecommunication services to provide the selected at least one type of telecommunication service to the buyer in response to receiving the one or more requests and receiving the information, receives a response to the offer associated with the buyer, wherein the response may be an acceptance of the offer or a rejection of the offer, and notifies the provider of the response and an identity of the buyer.

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59. (Previously Presented) The telecommunication service manager according to claim 57, wherein the set of instructions updates status information regarding the request for display to the buyer.

60. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 39, wherein the information from the buyer is received via a database that contains the information.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 39-60 are allowed.

With regards to claim 39, the prior art of record, alone or combined, does neither anticipate nor render obvious a server executing a plurality of steps, inter alia, **as a whole**, enabling a buyer to create one or more requests for proposal for the several types of telecommunications services available from the plurality of sellers, presenting the several types of telecommunication services available from the plurality of sellers to the buyer terminal, enabling the buyer to select at least one type of telecommunication service from the several types of telecommunication services, receiving one or more requests for purchasing at least one type of telecommunication service selected from the several types of telecommunication services at the server, the one or more requests being associated with the buyer, receiving information from the buyer during the purchase of at least one type of telecommunication service regarding prior usage

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of the selected at least one type of telecommunication services of the buyer associated with a previous seller of telecommunication service, receiving a plurality of questions from the buyer during the purchase of at least one type of telecommunication service, the questions being associated with the selected at least one type of telecommunication services, verifying the identity of the buyer from a plurality of data sources, generating an offer to provide the selected at least one type of telecommunication service to the buyer in response to receiving the one or more requests and receiving the information, the offer being associated with a provider of telecommunication services, receiving a response to the offer, wherein the response is associated with the buyer, and wherein the response may be an acceptance of the offer or a rejection of the offer, and notifying the provider of the response and an identity of the buyer.

With regards to the other two independent claims their limitations are similar to the limitations of claim 39 and are therefore analyzed and allowed for the same reasons as set forth for claim 39 above.

The reasons for allowance for all dependent claims are the same as set forth for claim 39 above.

5. Discussion of best cited prior art: The applicant's arguments filed 8/18/09, see pages 7-12 are compelling and persuasive that Walker et al. (US Patent 6,345,090) combined with the teachings of the published article, "Bell offers Answers for Commonly Asked Customer Questions", Anonymous, St Louis

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Business Journal (St. Louis MO, US), v7 N26 s3 plc, March 23, 1987 ("Bell")

does neither anticipate nor render obvious all the limitations recited as a whole in claims 39, 54 and 58.

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yogesh C. Garg whose telephone number is 571-272-6756. The examiner can normally be reached on Increased Flex/Hoteling.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey A. Smith can be reached on 571-272-6763. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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